

Using Maps Offline: Downloading and Printing High Resolution Maps

A Word about Map Files

High resolution map files are excellent for preserving great detail, but they are also very large and take up a lot of computer memory. You may view high resolution map files online without downloading them. Downloading them can make it easier to incorporate them into learning activities. To make working with these files more manageable, follow the steps outlined here for downloading and printing high resolution maps.

Downloading a Map File

High resolution map files from the Library generally are provided in one of two formats: MrSID files and JPEG2000 files. Viewing images offline in these formats requires a viewer.

Viewer software is typically free and can be downloaded from vendor sites. Links are available on the American Memory Web site Help page at <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/help/view.html#map>.

If you already have viewer software, skip to #2.

1. Find and download viewer software

- ☐ Go to: <http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/help/view.html#map>.
- ☐ Click on the desired software download link.
- ☐ Download the software following instructions on the vendor's Web site.
- ☐ Note: If you download IrfanView, be sure to download both the program and the plug-ins.

2. Find and download a map

- ☐ Locate a map you would like to download from www.loc.gov. One example is: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3851a.pm001066>.
- ☐ Click on the thumbnail to enlarge the map.
- ☐ Click the link for "Download JPEG2000 image" or "Download MrSID image" and save the file to your computer desktop or other location. Choose a filename that will be easy to remember.

3. Open the viewer software and then open the saved map file.

Resize & Save a Large Map as a JPEG File

Follow these steps to resize and convert the saved map into a JPEG file. JPEG files are a standard graphic format that can more easily be printed.

1. Open the viewer software and then open the saved map file.

2. Resize the map, if needed. Be sure to preserve the aspect ratio to avoid image distortion.

3. Save the map as a JPG file (a standard graphic format), using a filename that will be easy to remember.

Printing a Large Map Using a Spreadsheet Program

Follow these steps to use a spreadsheet program to print large maps on multiple sheets of paper. First, make sure that your map is saved as a JPG file, using the directions provided.

Note: You may need to experiment to find what works best for the map you are trying to print.

1. Open a new document in your spreadsheet program and insert the image into the open document.
2. Use the page break preview to see how it will fit on multiple sheets of paper.
3. Look for the markers along the bottom and side of the picture that show the page breaks.
4. Adjust the size of the map using the format menu or a corner handle.
5. Check the page layout and adjust the paper size as desired.
6. If you need a little more space, adjust the margins (make them as small as possible to avoid wasting paper).
7. Save the spreadsheet file, using a filename that is easy to remember.
8. Select the print preview option, check the settings and then print the map.

NOTE: This procedure can be used with large images including maps, prints and photographs. The saved file can also be taken to a commercial printer for large-scale printing.